

(e) the object of buying electric locomotives and to what extent that has been fulfilled;

(f) whether any new contracts have been finalised in this regard recently; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent and source of funds allotted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 18 nos. received in 1988. 6 nos. 6000 HP 25 kV AC Bo-Bo-Bo Type Thyristor Locomotives from ASEA/Sweden for total FOB value of SEK 109,935,979 (including spares). 12 nos. 6000 HP 25 kV AC as 6 nos. Bo-Bo-Bo and 6 nos. Co-Co Type Thyristor Locomotives from Sumitomo/Japan for total FOB value of ₹ 5,278,370,600 (including spares).

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) These High Horse Power Electric Locomotives with the then latest thyristor technology, having higher speed capabilities were imported to evaluate their performance in actual service condition on Indian Railways and then to consider series manufacture of High Horse Power locomotives of the acceptable design in India. These locomotives are under extensive service trials to evaluate their performance covering various parameters.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Sick Sugar Factories

*298. **SHRI ANNA JOSHI:**
SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sugar factories in the country;

(b) the number of factories out of these which are sick;

(c) the total loss of revenue as a result thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken to revive the sick sugar factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) As on 15.2.1992, there were 405 installed sugar factories in the country.

(b) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, companies which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR has reported that since 1987, 12 reference relating to sugar factories have been received in which appropriate action is being taken under the provisions of the aforesaid Act. Information regarding sick sugar factories in the Cooperative and Public Sectors is not maintained.

(c) There is no direct loss of revenue to the Central Government as excise duty/cess is levied and collected on all sugar produced by such factories.

(d) Sugar factories which have capacity less than 2500 TCD are to be given priority in licensing if they undertake expansion to the aforesaid minimum economic capacity, as per the licensing policy guidelines announced vide Press Note dated 8.11.1991.

Further, out of the 12 sugar mills whose references are pending before the BIFR, loans from the Sugar Development Fund

have been sanctioned to 3 mills for rehabilitation/modernisation and to 4 mills for cane development schemes. 3 Loan applications are under consideration.

World Bank Assistance for Technical Education

*299. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of World Bank Assistance for technical education during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent so far out of it; and

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of the remaining funds?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The World Bank has agreed to provide credit assistance of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 373.3 million over the period 1990-99 under two projects for modernising and upgrading Technician Education covering AICTE recognised polytechnics in 16 States and one Union Territory.

(b) Against the above credit, SDR 6.08 million have been utilised upto the end of February, 1992.

(c) The first project became operational on 5.12.1990 and the second on 29.1.1992. After making detailed preparations for project implementation, the States have started incurring expenditure and claiming reimbursement against the credit.

Investment from NRIs

*300. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invite private investment from the Gulf-based NRIs for the development of the railway transport infrastructure in the country especially for the Konkan Railway Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Meetings with representative groups of NRIs in Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Sharjah were held recently. The response from the NRIs was encouraging.

[Translation]

Pantry Cars on Long Distance Trains

*301. SHRI MANKU RAM SODHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether catering facilities provided in Mahanadi and Amarkantak Expresses are not adequate;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide pantry cars on all long distance trains, including Mahanadi and Amarkantak Expresses, for providing better catering facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Catering facilities for passengers by these trains are considered adequate.

(b) No, Sir.